

AMAA

Newsletter

FROM THE GENERAL OFFICE OF THE ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC. 140 FOREST AVENUE, PARAMUS, N.J. 07652

EDITOR: G.H. CHOPOURIAN

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NO. 4

CHARITY: VIRTUE OF THE HEART By Ruth Philibosian*



Miss Ruth Philibosian

When I was a little girl, I went to my father one day and said "Father, every girl in my class at school has a wrist watch. I want one too." At that time my brother was a struggling young man, supporting our family, and money was hard to come by. My father answered me, "I have no money for a wrist watch for you. When you get married, let your husband buy you one." A few weeks later my father received a letter from his friend, that saintly Badveli Geuvkalaijian, the minister of the church in Mersin. In his letter Badveli wrote: "In my church I have the blind, the lame, the widows and orphans. If only I could do more for them and meet their needs." Then my father found the money to send to Badveli. I learned then that charity is a virtue of the heart, and not of the hand.

I carried out this belief when several years ago I went to Beirut to make my contribution to the Armenian community there. I had just been discharged from the army and wanted to do something for our people before I settled down to the routine of the years of teaching that were ahead of me. On arriving in Beirut, I asked the ministers of the two churches to meet with me. At the meeting I told them that I would be in Beirut for a year and asked them how I could best serve. Both of them asked that I teach English to their high school classes. I agreed, and for a year I taught English as a second language to the students in the two Protestant high schools. It was the most rewarding, most gratifying work I have ever

done in my life. So much so that a few years ago I returned to Beirut and once more did volunteer teaching, this time in Haigazian College, giving courses in English and Early Childhood Education, which is my special field.

Thomas Jefferson, perhaps the wisest of our Founding Fathers, said, "I deem it the duty of every man to devote a certain portion of his income for charitable purposes, and that it is his further duty to see it so applied as to do the most good." This would appear even more obvious if we consider that our estate is as much a gift of God as our eyes and our hands. Our sense of morality bids us use our eyes and hands not only for pleasure. So it is with our estate.

I know of no organization which is so far-reaching in its application as the Armenian Missionary Association. I am aware of this not only by virtue of being a Board member of the Association but I have been witness to its achievements during my two years in Beirut, as well as the several trips I have made to the Middle Eastern countries.

The work of the A.M.A.A. in the education field is well known. Hundreds of children are getting the priceless gift of education. But there are many social conditions to be met. To the needy Armenians overseas, there is no Relief Society, no Welfare Agency, no Pension Plans, no Social Security. None of these exist. Our happy privilege of having these advantages is surely cause of Thanksgiving. Let our Thanksgiving merge with our Christian giving. Let us envision the Armenian Missionary Association to be a power-house that generates the necessary energy to carry out its work. The A.M.A.A. is essential for the survival of Armenian communities the world over. It creates a sense of close bond among all Armenians, and it must be built up for the benefit of our posterity.

Gifts big or little...You remember the New Testament story of the beggar at the gate of whom St. Paul said, "Silver and gold have I none. Such as I have give I to thee." Give what you have. To some one it may be more than you dare to think. So give with joy, and that joy is your reward.

(Editor's Note)

*This message was delivered by Miss Ruth Philibosian at the fundraising Banquet of the Armenian Presbyterian Church. The message has a universal appeal. We consider it appropriate, therefore, for an editorial.

Miss Philibosian, a giver to others more than to herself, has a heart of gold. I had opportunity, this past August 6, to see the beautiful, new, seven story building of the First Armeinan Evangelical Church now named the "Yeprem and Martha Philibosian Armenian Evangelical College." Miss Philibosian supported the project with a donation of \$100,000. She also contributed, along with her brother, \$100,000 in full payment of the spacious A.M.A.A. offices being constructed at 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, New Jersey thus creating an A.M.A.A.-Armenian Presbyterian Church Complex.

IMPRESSIONS ON THE FIRST CONVENTION OF THE AEU-NA



Mr. George Philibosian

It can safely be said that the first convention of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, held in Fresno, California was a most definite success.

A perfect weather, a most hospitable array of hosts, flawless planning with irreproachable attention to detail and substance, all concurred in providing the most fitting ambiance for a marvelous convention.

Young and old, from all parts of the USA and Canada, were present and participated enthusiastically in an alternating sequence of serious work and healthy fun. Men and women, girls and boys, in impressive number, representing all our communities throughout North America, diligently and most interestedly took part in the various meetings and activities involved. It has been a truly encouraging and heartlifting experience.

In addition to a very elaborate number of issues concerning the life and future of our churches and the AEU-NA, matters connected with the activities of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, which is, as known, the missionary agency of AEU-NA, were also considered. The reports showed that, the AMAA, reaching Armenian Evangelical Churches and colonies almost all around the world, continues to be the providential helping hand in the field of Christian Education, health, evangelism, welfare as well as in the field of assisting weaker churches and establishing new ones. Overall, many other topics were discussed and many felicitous decisions were taken, which will prove most helpful and beneficial in years ahead for the life and the activities of our churches.

It must be mentioned that the novel idea of a retreat for the ministers and their wives held in the St. Anthony's Retreat Center, which took place on June 20-21, was a most salutary one in providing refreshing spiritual uplift to our clergymen and their wives.

Our Association was represented at this convention by our Executive Secretary, Rev. G. H. Chopourian and myself. We tried, both of us, to do our utmost in participating with great love and enthusiasm in almost every one of the many meetings in which matters pertaining to the spiritual and religious future of our churches were considered.

It was also a very happy occasion for us to attend the Haigazian College Board of Trustees meetings as well as discuss with the representatives of the AEU-NA and its Department of Missions a great number of issues which relate to the close cooperation between AMAA and AEU-NA. It must

be said that AMAA is very fortunate to have on the West Coast a number of top notch calibre and most dedicated people as members of our own Board of Directors and the Haigazian College Board of Trustees.

A special mention of admiration and congratulations must be made about the marvelous role of our most capable and wise AEU-NA Moderator, Rev. Harry Missirlian, Pastor of the Pilgrim Armenian Evangelical Church, and that of Rev. Vartkes Kassouni, Pastor of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church, both in Fresno, who with the most enthusiastic help of all their church members and the rest of the delegates present were able to make the first General Assembly of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America a most memorable event in our church life.

George Philibosian July 31, 1972

GARABED A. AND ISABEL ASSADOURIAN MEMORIAL FUND

In April, 1972 the Garabed A. and Isabel Assadourian Memorial Fund was created by a five thousand dollar donation to the Armenian Missionary Association for this purpose. The income of the fund is to be used preferentially for the rehabilitation and education of Armenian children in Turkey or, if this is not possible, in alternative needy areas.

Garabed A. Assadourian was born in Gurun, Turkey, in 1883 and died in New York City in 1971. As a child he witnessed the disruption of his family during the 1895-1896 Armenian massacres perpetrated by Abdul Hamid. Some time later he attended and graduated from the Marzovan Seminary with the goal of a combined preaching and teaching career. He visited the United States from 1911 to 1913 and returned to Turkey to pursue his main ambition. Isabel Assadourian was born in Brusa in 1892 and died in New York City in 1965. She was the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Hagop Stepanian. She grew to young womanhood after a happy childhood and was a graduate of the American Missionary High School for Girls in Brusa.

When they were married in 1914 he expected to assume a teaching position in Haigazian College in Konya. At the outbreak of World War I shortly thereafter their plans were forcibly altered. In the harrowing period from 1914 to 1920, during which time their two children were born, he occupied combined preaching and teaching posts in Panderma, Brusa, and Ismit. They also extended whatever assistance they could to their fellow Armenians. In 1920 they were able to reach Constantinople with their children and escape to the United States. Starting a new life in New York City, he was compelled to forsake his original career and enter the rug business in order to raise his family.

They led exemplary lives and were a constant source of inspiration to their family. In their singular concern for the proper upbringing and welfare of their children they went so far as to sacrifice their own personal lives. They unfailingly encouraged their children to utilize their talents to the utmost. He was intolerant of any form of sham or hypocrisy. At the same time he possessed a high degree of humility uncorrupted by any feeling of self-importance. Throughout his life he maintained a lively interest in spiritual and intellectual matters. He was a staunch member of the Marble Collegiate Church for many years. Her lifetime was devoted toward making a happy home for her family. She was a mem-(continued on page 4 column 1)

LIST OF AVAILABLE BOOKS

(Legend: pb = paperbound; hc = hard cover: * = In Armenian)

BOOK NO. ARPEE, Leon. A Century of Armenian (pb) \$.50 4a Protestantism BABOIAN, Rose, The Art of Armenian (hc) 6.95 Cooking *13 BIBLE, N.T. No. 247, 5x31/2, small 4.00 print (Leather) *15 BIBLE, N.T. No. MO253, 5x7, large 2.50 5.00 BIBLE, O.T. & N.T. 5x7, small print *16 BIBLE, O.T. & N.T. No. M50X, 71/2x51/4 (hc) 5.00 *17 Large print BOYAJIAN, Dickran F. Armenia: The (hc) 15.00 17a Case for a Forgotten Genocide CALIAN, Carnegie S. Grace, Guts, and (hc) 4.00 18 Goods CHOPOURIAN, G.H. The Armenian 5.75 18a Evangelical Reformation: Causes and Effects DAVIDIAN, Nectar. The Seropians: 1.00 18b First Armenian Settlers in Fresno County 4.75 DOWNING, Charles, Tales of the Hodja (hc) 18c 5.00 *20 GOERGIZIAN, A.A. The Paulician-Tondrikian Movement in the Armenian Apostolic Church 5.00 *20a HAGOPIAN, Jack S. Hayadrop HARTUNIAN, Abraham H. Neither to (hc) 24 5.00 Laugh Nor To Weep HASSESSIAN, Herald A.G. Sects from (pb) 5.00 *25 the Point of View of Christian Truth 2.00 *25a KASSOUNY, Y.H. Rupen I and the Founding of the Rupenian Dynasty 5.00 (pb) *25b KASSOUNY, Y.H. Haigazian Armenological Review 3.75 31 KRIKORIAN, M.P. The Adjective of Antioch 2.50 31a NIGOSIAN, S.A. World Religions SACRED MUSIC CHORALE record, 2.95 *35 *36 SACRED MUSIC CHORALE record, 3.95 Stereo *37 10.00 (hc) SAPRICHIAN, Altoon and Sarra.

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Children's Melodies

19th Century

WALLIS, Wilson. Fresno Armenians

of the Armenian Catholic and

Protestant Denominations in the

YEGHIAYAN, Puzant. The Separation (hc)

37a

*37b

2.00

4.00

(hc)

SOME IMPORTANT RECENT PUBLICATIONS

lowing, which are obtainable from the AMAA office:

We believe every Armenian home should have copies of the form

1. THE ART OF ARMENIAN COOKING by Rose Baboian

- A complete cookbook of authentic Armenian and Middle Eastern recipes, with 200 updated and simplified recipes from Aintab, Marash, Kilis, Arapkir, Harput and Smyrna.
- * 2. AN ANTHOLOGY OF THOUGHT by A. A. Bedikian. One of the most prominent Armenian writers, he deals with the great issues on love, hope, faith, man, Christ, social and intellectual human activities.
- ARMENIA: The Case for a Forgotten Genocide by Dickran H. Boyajian (\$15.00).

A documented history of Armenia, the Turkish solution to the "Armenian question," and a case for the legal formation of an Armenian homeland.

- 4. THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL REFORMATION: Causes and Effects by G. H. Chopourian (\$5.75). Surveys the socio-psychological and historical causes of the Armenian Evangelical movement objectively and in the light of ecumenicity.
- * 5. THE PAULICIAN-TONDRIKIAN MOVEMENT IN THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH by A. A. Goergizian

A scholarly, richly footnoted thorough book on the 7th-12th century reform movement which provides the history of the rise and fall of the movement and documents its theology and teachings.

- 6. NEITHER TO LAUGH NOR TO WEEP by A. A. Hartunian Available in English and Spanish, the book contains the
 - memoirs of Reverend Apraham Hartunian and recollections on the Turkish atrocities.
- SECTS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF CHRISTIAN TRUTH by H.H.G. Hassessian (\$5.00). Provides a great deal of information on the various sects. It is the first serious research in Armenian on sects and their relationship to the Judeo-Christian Scriptures.
- * 8. HAIGAZIAN ARMENOLOGICAL REVIEW edited by Y. H. Kassouny (\$5.00).

A Haigazian College publication, it contains articles and studies by fourteen authors.

- THE BARD OF LOREE by Mischa Kudian (\$4.50). A successful translation into English of the selected works of Hovannes Toumanian, the beloved 19th century poet of
- *10. CHILDREN'S MELODIES by Altoon and Sarra Saprichian

A uniquely helpful resource book of melodies for children covering prayer, worship, family, nature, seasons, animals, commencement, vacation, play and holidays.

*11. THE SEPARATION OF THE ARMENIAN CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT DENOMINATIONS IN THE NINE-TEENTH CENTURY by Puzant Yeghiayan (\$4.00). Demonstrates, from the Armenian Apostolic point of view,

the causes for the founding of the Armenian Catholic and Protestant churches.

^{*} The publication is in the Armenian language.

FIRST ARMENIAN CHURCH BENEVOLENCE COMMITTE ACTIVITIES

(Reported by Mis Beatrice Harpootlian)

On Sunday, April 9, 1972, Dr. G. H. Chopourian, Executive Secretary of the AMAA, was the speaker at the Worship Service of the First Armenian Church in Belmont, Massachusetts. Following the services, the Benevolence Committee hosted a dinner in honor of Dr. Chopourian, after which he showed movies of his recent trip to the Middle East. It was of great interest to all present to see and hear of the various schools and projects of the AMAA. It is gratifying to note that eight children were sponsored for their education after Dr. Chopourian's message.

The Committee has held dinners, bake sales and other functions in order to raise funds for needed equipment for the new AMAA office.

On Sunday, May 7, 1972, special services were held in the Sanctuary of the First Armenian Church with Dr. Felix Ziegler, Director of the Institute for the Armenian Blind, Deaf, Mute and Mentally Retarded in Beirut, as the speaker. Participating in this Service were all of the Armenian Churches in the greater Boston area and the AGBU. The First Armenian Church and the Armenian Memorial Church were co-hosts, with the Benevolence Committee of the First Armenian Church in charge of reception arrangements, for this very important evening in honor of our Swiss Friends who have done so much for handicapped Armenians since after World War I.



Benevolence Committee

(continued from page 2 column 2)

ber of the Adams Parkhurst Memorial Presbyterian Church, where she served for several years as a deaconess and assistant treasurer. Both were firm supporters of the ideals of the Armenian Missionary Association. Because of their World War I experiences they were very sensitive to the problem of under-privileged Armenian children in Turkey.

The Garabed A. and Isabel Assadourian Memorial Fund was instituted in their honor by their survivors who consist of their son and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. Fred Assadourian, their daughter, Mrs. Arax De Bono, and their three grand-children, Charles Fred De Bono, Gary Aram Assadourian, and Brian Haig Assadourian.

GARY DERIAN MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND FOR CHILD EDUCATION

On May 21, 1972, the Armenian Evangelical Community of Greater Detroit was stunned at the news that the Derian family received from the American Embassy in New Delhi, India. Their eldest son, Gary, who had taken a year off from the University to travel around the world, was reported drowned in the Ganges river.

The son of Mr. & Mrs. Edward Derian, and brother of Richard, Janice and Carl, Gary was born in Detroit, Mich. on February 6, 1950. He had received his elementary and High School education in Detroit and Livonia, and was attending the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

His great love for books, his philosophical mind which questioned everything in life, his keen interest in people and their welfare urged him to travel all around the world to discover for himself those ingredients of life which bring happiness to a human being no matter what his economic, intellectual, ethnic or racial status. His travels took him to strange lands and put him in close touch with strange people who often surprised him by their gentleness and beauty of character. Unfortunately, his quest for truth was tragically cut short on the eve of May 21. While bathing in the Ganges river he lost his footing to the strong current and disappeared in the murky waters leaving behind a deeply-grieved family and community.

After a long and fruitless wait to find his body, Memorial Services were held on June 14, 1972, at the Armenian Congregational Church of Detroit. In lieu of flowers donations of \$2,000 helped establish the Gary Derian Child Education Fund, the income from which will help in the education of two children in the Middle East. The Lord gave him to us for a while, and to the Lord he has returned. Blessed be the name of the Lord.



NEWS FROM AND NEEDS OF THE MISSION FIELD (By G.H. Chopourian, Executive Secretary)

It is Sunday, July 30. Nazar Daghlian, past president of the AMAA, and I are on the pulpit of the Armenian Protestant Church of Erevan having been invited by Pastor Consulian to speak to the congregation. The plain hall used as a church is packed from door to door, with all the side rooms filled to capacity. The congregation is composed of elderly people mostly, with a scattering of young people. They are simply dressed, but pious and devout people. I stand up to greet the congregation and transmit the greetings of the American-Armenians and the Board of Directors. Suddenly, I am taken aback with surprise. The congregation is on their feet. The pastor whispers into my ears: "This is their response and request that you take their greetings to America." I look down, and all the members of the Tour group, twenty-four of them below, have glistening eyes! Touched by the simple faith, the devout practice, and the pious look of the people they are in tears. They are tears of envy! We have so much. Our creature comforts and possessions, it becomes clear, have also robbed us of something more intrinsic and genuine - an active, loyal, faithful commitment to God. The service is over and we are surrounded by these warm and friendly people. Embraces, handshakes, pats. We do not want to depart, but we must move on to Etchmiadzin and enjoy the warming smile of Catholicos Vasken I. We have devotions in the ancient cathedral, a visit with His Holiness, and a group picture with him.

Wednesday, we are the guests of Rev. Consulian and his church at a special dinner in honor of the Tour group. What delicious food. What crisp cucumbers and mouth-watering tomatoes. We sing. We greet and encourage each other. We promise to pray for them and to think of them. "What can we possibly do, for you, Badvelie?" "Not much really," he answers. "We get along. But, we could do with a good organ."

"I'll tell you what! No one can be the same again after a Christian fellowship with the Armenian Evangelicals of Erevan," volunteers a group member.

Beirut is next. An active, bustling, exciting town full of abundance. Armenians have a stake in Lebanon. They are in businesses. They are in manufacturing. They have numerous schools, from elementary to college. They have a large number of publications. They have social and cultural centers. And all this is a heavy responsibility. They receive help from outside, but they meet more than 80 per cent of the total -expenditure for church, school, social and cultural services. We are offered lunch by the Haigazian College. We visit the Alex Manougian AGBU Center. Nazar Daghlian and I speak from the pulpit of the First Armenian Evangelical Church and later visit the Yeprem-Martha Philibosian Armenian Evangelical College, towards which our own Ruth Philibosian contributed \$100,000. The face of our institutions have changed to the better. But, we also discover that the schools cannot go on without assistance from overseas. They would simply be closed. We also discover that not all Armenians are doing well. At least 25 to 30 per cent of the total Armenian population of 200,000 in Lebanon and Syria would have to be classified as poor. The needs are so varied and great, one

would not dare ask, "What can we possibly do for you, brethren?" In fact, one does not have to for the grave needs are placed on our lap — needs of Haigazian College, deficits of the schools, salvaging of Aleppo College, providing for the needs of some under-paid ministers, providing scholarships, saving a Damascus school on the verge of being closed if the deficit is not wiped out, purchasing of a piece of land so a church can commence an elementary school, and so on and so forth. Are they fake needs? No, not at all. They are all genuine needs. They are needs which when met will elevate our Armenian people to higher plateaus of influence and service. He who hath ears let him hear.

Istanbul! This Byzantine city is enchanting. But, the condition of our Armenian people is disenchanting. Elementary human rights are denied to minorities in Turkey. Armenians are unable to obtain the necessary permits to repair their schools and churches, nor are they able to put up new buildings. One feels there is a process of strangulation. Death will be brought about through imposed neglect. We visit the Patriarchate, the building in which it is housed being in need of sad repair and polishing. We visit the Armenian Protestant Church, one of the earliest built, and find it in need of improvement. We take a bus and ferry ride to Touzla to see Camp Armen wherein are kept Armenian children brought from the interior. The children, boys and girls from 7 to 16, provide us with a reportoire of 20 songs. They had never known to speak Armenian. They sang the songs to us by heart in Armenian. How are they cared for? Armenians overseas sponsor the expenses of the children. The sum of \$160 entitles one to be a sponsor. Three of the Tour group members are touched, and, at least one in tears, turn to me and say, "I am going to sponsor that one, that one, that one." I smile. I cry. I pray. I say, "Why can't this be the experience of every comfort-laden Armenian? It would do his soul good to get excited about lending a hand." But, above all else Istanbul needs the vitalizing news of the Gospel of Christ. It needs itinerant ministers to strengthen the inner springs of our people.

Athens! Beautiful! No wonder Lord Byron wrote such nice things about it. We do not have much time. There is only Sunday and the sight-seeing cannot be put off. I, only, go to the Armenian Evangelical Church where I give a message to a large room-ful of Protestants and Apostolic. They are appreciative. I admire the blind prophet of Athens, the Reverend Krikor Demirjian. What a man of God! Tall, strong, visionary though blind since his 18th year. His doctor son and wife take me out for a Greek style fish dinner. We invite the two couples to the Xenophon Hotel for dinner so they could meet our group. The fellowship is warm. We feel one with each other because we are Armenians and we are Christians. The mystery of Christ!

Back home in a 747, with 680 aboard. What a miracle. A hotel in the air. But the greater one is the miracle of love which extends its hands across the oceans to succor and sustain. And the AMAA enables persons like you and me to embrace our brothers in need.

NEEDS IN AMAA OFFICE

The A.M.A.A. office has some important needs for equipment. Any and all help provided for the purchase of these needs is most welcome. May we hear from friends of the A.M.A.A.?

COST	ANSWERED FOR BY
\$ 79	Mr. & Mrs. Hrant Tashjian
520	Dr. & Mrs. Rendel Levonian
35	Dr. & Mrs. P. Ketenjian
30	Mrs. K.A. Pridjian
150	Mr. & Mrs. Chas. DeMirjian
50	Mrs. K.H. Movsesyan
95	Mr. & Mrs. Edward Peters
75	Mr. & Mrs. Ardson Shegoian
350	Mr. & Mrs. Ardson Shegoian
75	Mr. & Mrs. Ardson Shegoian
75	Mr. & Mrs. Michel Partayan
25	Mr. & Mrs. George Berberian
120	Mr. & Mrs. John Bogosian
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We want to remind our supporters regularly of these needs until we have all of the items answered for. It's your MOVE next.

Please make checks payable to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, and mail to A.M.A.A., 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, New Jersey 07652. Your contribution is tax deductible.

Trusting in God, and for His sake, I would like to enter into

TRAGIC LOSS

Dr. Daniel Wosgian, while on a visit with his wife and daughter to his brother-in-law and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. Vahe Roubian of Manhasset, New York took final leave of his beloved family. His death is a great loss not only to his wife, daughters Mrs. Nancy Khanamirian and Mrs. Ida Tabourian of Beirut and son Stephen Zaven of London but also to Haigazian College, the evangelical community of Beirut, the Beirut College for Women in which he was a professor, and to the entire Armenian people of Lebanon and Syria.

The Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, along with the Trustees of Haigazian College, its affiliate, extend their heartfelt sympathies to his wife and children, the members of his immediate family, and to the many outstanding leaders such as educators, professors, administrators, ministers and merchants who came under his influence and who will mourn their beloved teacher.

(The AMAA delivered a fuller account to the press and will be glad to send a copy of the write-up on request).

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